

## **Commercial Building Code Proposal ASHRAE 90.1 – 1999 version**

**Goal:** Increase the energy efficiency of commercial buildings in Wisconsin, both public and private, by adopting a more recent heating, ventilation and air-conditioning code than that currently used by the state.

### **Background:**

As promulgated in ch. Comm 61.05 (2), Wis. Admin Code, the current building code that dictates energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings in the state is the International Energy Conservation Code – 2000 (IECC 2000). This code was adopted by the state on July 1, 2002; this adoption was a considerable revision for the state given that prior to 2002, the state had relied upon a “homegrown” code developed in the state since 1914.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 101.027(2), the IECC 2000 includes standards for the heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning of commercial buildings, known as ASHRAE 90.1. However, IECC 2000 relies upon ASHRAE 90.1 – version 1989. A major revision of the ASHRAE standard occurred in 1999, but the state has yet to adopt this update. This 1999 edition is estimated to effect energy savings as much as 10%, and 20 states have already adopted it. Further, in July 2002 the U.S. Department of Energy notified states that they have until July 2004 to either adopt the new ASHRAE standard or file for an extension.<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin currently plans to file for an extension.

### **Suggested Action:**

The Department of Commerce has a commercial building code committee that meets monthly to review code adoption and implementation. With a directive from the administration, this committee could accelerate the review and adoption of ASHRAE 90.1- 1999, resulting in major energy efficiency improvements in the state. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 227.19, the recommendation of this code committee would be subject to review by the legislature through a rule-making procedure. However, legislative approval is not required to initiate the process. It is anticipated that ASHRAE 90.1 –1999 can be adopted as a part of the Department of Commerce’s existing duties; no additional positions will need to be created.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy – Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Docket No. EE-DET-02-001, July 15, 2002 notice.